



3/1/2022

Senator Mae Flexer, Co-Chair  
Representative Daniel Fox, Co-Chair  
Government Administration and Elections Committee  
Support: SB-184, HR-5262

Dear Senator Flexer, Representative Fox and members of the GAE Committee:

We write in support of SB-184 and HR-5262, bills related to the right to vote.

SB-184 extends the availability of absentee voting due to COVID through the November 2022 election. This is an important extension while we continue to live with COVID and its effects. As we know the incidence of COVID increases in the fall season with cooler weather. This increase will have the effect of increasing the concerns about in-person voting, especially concerns of those who are at greater risk of COVID and deleterious impacts. Additionally, there continue to be workplace effects of COVID. Such effects include ongoing high demand for essential workers in various sectors of the economy including healthcare. Such work demand could easily translate into a decision to forego voting. Also potentially impacted are voters who have concern that they have been exposed to COVID and do not want to expose others by going to the polls to vote.

HR-5262 aligns the statutory language related to absentee voting with the language used in the Constitution.

The League of Women Voters of Greater Hartford joins the LWV of Connecticut in supporting these bills. We believe that they will help to increase voter turnout and make it easier for eligible voters to exercise their right to vote. The LWV at all its organizational levels believes that our democracy is strengthened by the participation of all voters and that it is the responsibility of governmental leaders to make our right to vote as accessible as possible. Indeed, in the state of Connecticut we saw increased levels of participation in the 2020 elections despite the COVID pandemic. This was achieved because of the availability of absentee voting. We urge adoption of these bills.

Sincerely yours,

Board of the League of Women Voters of Greater Hartford

Doretta Andonucci  
Cassie B. Bachman  
Emily Hofstatter  
Karen Licht  
Carole Mulready  
Libby Swietek  
Joan Twiggs – Bloomfield, CT 06002